

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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In Reply Refer To:

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Instruction Memorandum No. NV-2007-015

Expires: 9/30/2008

To: Field Managers, Nevada
Deputy State Directors and Staff Chiefs, NSO

From: Ron Wenker
State Director, Nevada

Subject: Volunteers Working in the Wild Horse and Burro Program

This Instruction Memorandum provides policy and guidance regarding volunteers working in the wild horse and burro program. Because of the potential risk involved in working with wild horses or burros, it is important to ensure that your practice of working with volunteers adheres to the following requirements.

The BLM Volunteer Manual (1114 -- Page 21 and 27) specifically states: "Volunteers may work in corrals or pens in direct contact with wild horses or burros if they have been certified knowledgeable about horsemanship by the BLM wild horse specialist." Additionally, Individual and/or Group Volunteer Service Agreements (Forms 1114-4 and 1114-5) must be in place prior to volunteer work commencing. Finally, volunteers who assist BLM with wild horse and burro titling and compliance work must clearly understand the parameters of their job and the distinctions between compliance and "law enforcement" work (BLM Volunteer Manual 1114, Page 19, 2.22A). If you have volunteers who assist with wild horse and compliance work, it may be helpful to review the relevant guidance in the 1114 Manual with those volunteers.

To assist in meeting the above requirements, please ensure that Group and/or Individual Volunteer Agreements are in place and current for all groups or individuals volunteering to assist with Nevada's wild horse and burro program. Agreements should define the specific scope of work the group and/or individual volunteers will be performing as well as work duration.

Volunteers who will be in direct contact with wild horses and burros must be certified knowledgeable about horsemanship by the BLM wild horse specialist **prior** to handling wild horses and burros. Refer to Attachment 1 for the certification checklist.

If you have questions about when a Group or Individual Volunteer Agreement is most appropriate, please contact your field office volunteer coordinators. Debra Kolkman, our State BLM Volunteer Coordinator, is also available to provide assistance in filling out Group or Individual Volunteer Agreements. Please contact her at 775-289-1946.

If you have any additional questions regarding this memorandum, please call Susie Stokke at (775) 861-6469.

Signed By:
Ron Wenker
State Director, Nevada

Authenticated By:
Ellyn Darrah
Administrative Assistant

1 Attachment

1 – Certification to Handle Wild Horses and Burros (2 pp)

Certification to Handle Wild Horses and Burros

Brief Description of Volunteer's Experience		Volunteer Certification (Check those that apply in box to the right).	
Volunteer has adopted a wild horse and/or burro within the past 5 years and has the skill, knowledge and ability to assist potential volunteers in completing their adoption application, selecting an animal, and explaining BLM's facility and titling requirements.	Yes	Volunteer is certified to assist potential adopters as follows: put together/provide adoption packets; assist adopter(s) in completing their adoption application; assist adopters in selecting an animal; and explaining BLM's facility and titling requirements.	
No			
Volunteer has assisted BLM at adoption event(s) during the past 5 years and is familiar with the requirements for adopting a wild horse and burro through BLM's Adopt A Horse (or Burro) Program.	Yes	Same as above.	
No			
Volunteer has assisted BLM in haltering offered horses and burros or has haltered adopted horses or burros post-adoption and performed this work safely and efficiently.	Yes	Volunteer is certified to assist in haltering horses and burros upon BLM request.	
No			
Volunteer is knowledgeable with BLM's trailer requirements and has evaluated trailers for their suitability to load adopted horses and burros during the past five years.	Yes	Volunteer is certified to evaluate trailers and determine their suitability for loading adopted horses or burros.	
No			
Volunteer has assisted BLM in setting up/taking down temporary corral facilities and has demonstrated the ability to perform this work safely and effectively.	Yes	Volunteer is certified to assist BLM in setting up/taking down temporary corral facilities at BLM's request.	
No			
Volunteer has assisted BLM in sorting/handling wild horses and burros in crowding alleys, pens/corrals and chutes and has demonstrated the ability to perform this work safely and effectively.	Yes	Volunteer is certified to assist BLM in sorting/handling wild horses and burros in crowding alleys, pens/corrals and chutes at BLM's request.	
No			
Volunteer has assisted BLM in loading wild horses and burros into trailers/trucks and has demonstrated the ability to perform this work safely and effectively.	Yes	Volunteer is certified to assist BLM in loading wild horses and burros into trailers/trucks.	
No			
Volunteer is experienced with operating a truck and trailer to haul wild horses and/or burros; understands BLM's trailer and facility requirements; has delivered wild horses or burros safely to the adopter post-adoption within the past 5 years; and has been certified to drive/operate BLM equipment.	Yes	Volunteer is certified to deliver wild horses or burros to the adopter post-adoption.	
No			
Volunteer has demonstrated the knowledge, skill and ability to care for orphan foals and/or special needs or nuisance animals and has facilities available which meet BLM's requirements in caring for these animals.	Yes	Volunteer is certified to care for orphan foals and/or special needs or nuisance animals on a temporary basis, as requested by BLM.	
No			
Volunteer has demonstrated the knowledge, skill and ability to assist the BLM WH&B Specialist or Law Enforcement Officer in repossessing adopted wild horses or burros and/or capturing and loading nuisance or injured animals on the range, at BLM's request.	Yes	Volunteer is certified to assist BLM to repossess adopted animals and/or capture/load nuisance or injured animals from the range at BLM's request.	
No			
Volunteer has completed BLM orientation and compliance training, possesses positive and effective communication skills, and has demonstrated the knowledge, skill and ability to assist BLM in completing compliance inspections, including completing the appropriate paperwork.	Yes	Volunteer is certified to assist BLM in conducting and documenting pre-adoption facility inspections and post-adoption compliance inspections at BLM's request.	
No			
Volunteer has gentled/trained at least one wild horse or burro within the past 5 years and has demonstrated success with the animal. Volunteer is willing to showcase their adopted horse or burro at various event(s) at BLM's request and/or counsel/mentor potential or new adopters.	Yes	Volunteer is certified to showcase their adopted wild horse or burro at special events at BLM's request.	

No			
Volunteer has the knowledge, skill, ability as demonstrated by their experience over the past five years in gentling/training wild horses and burros and has facilities available which meet BLM's requirements in caring for these animals.	Yes	Volunteer is certified to gentle/train up to _____ (specify number) of wild horses and or burros and make them available to the public for adoption.	
No			
Volunteer has substantial experience in gentling/training wild horses and burros, possesses positive and effective communication skills, and has the ability to counsel/mentor potential or new adopters and/or conduct pre-and post-adoption training clinics/opportunities.	Yes	Volunteer is certified to counsel/mentor potential or new adopters (including demonstrating training techniques) and/or to conduct pre-and post-adoption training clinics/opportunities.	
No			

Volunteer is certified to handle wild horses and/or burros as follows: (describe specific tasks, duties/responsibilities).

BLM Signing Official _____ Date: _____

Upon signature of the BLM signing official, the volunteer is certified to handle wild horses and/or burros for the tasks/duties specifically described.